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LETTER DATED 27 FEBRUARY 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE
SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit to you the text of a public statement issued today by the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands regarding the agreement which you have brokered with the Government of Iraq.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Laurence N. EDWARDS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



Annex

Public statement issued by the Government of the Marshall Islands
on 27 February 1998

The Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands today expressed satisfaction with the outcome of the agreement reached by the Secretary-General of the United Nations with the Government of Iraq on 23 February 1998. The personal involvement by the Secretary-General in the mounting crisis was pivotal to reaching a satisfactory outcome. At the same time, the willingness of the United States of America and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to deploy their forces to the region made it clear to the Government of Iraq what would be the consequences if no agreement was reached. The Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands applauds the restraint shown by the United States and United Kingdom forces.

The Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands has been in full compliance with its own obligations, and is in full support of the relevant Security Council resolutions regarding the situation in Iraq. The Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands once again calls on the Government of Iraq to realign its policies to comply with the said resolutions, in particular Security Council resolution 687 (1991) of 3 April 1991.

The Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands is also in full support of the work of the United Nations Special Commission (UNSCOM). The work of the inspectors of UNSCOM must be allowed to go unhindered and must be free of all political interference. Only through full cooperation and compliance with UNSCOM will it be possible to lift the restrictions on the Government of Iraq. The Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands appeals to the authorities in Iraq to cooperate fully with UNSCOM, in order to stop the suffering of innocent civilians, particularly the children and the elderly.

The agreement reached by the Secretary-General is an important milestone in international diplomacy, and it shows that through cooperation and discussion it is possible to reach mutual understanding. Nevertheless, the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands will carefully scrutinize the implementation of the agreement to ensure that it can be verified and that it does not become a loophole to avoid compliance with UNSCOM.

The Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands would like to reiterate its congratulations to the Secretary-General, the members of the Security Council and the UNSCOM inspectors for their work in the promotion of peace in the Gulf region.
